

CONCILIATION

DRAWER

34

PERSONALITY

7/2009 28.03487

Abraham Lincoln's Personality

Conciliation

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Lincoln Spirit Of Conciliation Is Needed Today

Buffalo Evening News.

By PHILIP BECKER GOETZ

THE WORSHIP of Lincoln as a political saint seems to widen as the years pass by. Such an attitude toward a great character of the past offers a striking contrast to the prevalent tendency among panic-stricken people to worship living leaders. The danger to world peace and individual liberty in the self-assertion and boastfulness of men in power abroad keeps those who would have an orderly society in a constant ferment. Even in our own country the threat of civil war is no less active because it today seeks social reform rather than the political disunion of the '60s. It is a sinister sign of the times that agitators preach hatred rather than conciliation and thus depart from the course which made Lincoln an inspiring statesman. Last week in New York's Town Meeting of the Air Mr. Hathaway, the Communist editor of the Daily Worker, openly advocated the destruction of any minority opposing the Communistic idea of the welfare of the people. Yet such reasoning would destroy the very expression of opinion so necessary to preserve balance in government, and in singling out the foes of the majority would rouse mob passion to acts of violence. The stabilizing power to avert disaster lies with the middle-class mind whose common sense will reject the theory that hatred and violence are proper means to bring about needed reforms. The spirit of conciliation in Lincoln, so impressive as we look back to it, should inform the thoughts and acts of our national leaders. 7/12/36

